

NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Lady Franklin's Letter to President Taylor.

From the National Intelligencer.

RAYFORD PLACE, LONDON, April 4, 1849.

Sir: I address myself to you, as a great nation, whose power to help me I cannot doubt, and in whose disposition to do so I have a confidence which I trust you will not deem presumptuous.

The name of my husband, Sir JOHN FRANKLIN, is probably not unknown to you, of that continent of which the American Republic forms so vast and conspicuous a portion. When I visited the United States, three years ago, among the many proofs I received of respect and courtesy, there was one which I never expected more than the consideration everywhere expressed to me of his former services in geographical discovery, and the interest felt in the enterprise in which he was then known to be engaged.

The expedition fitted out by the Government for the discovery of the North-West Passage, the question which for 300 years has engaged the interest and taxed the energies of the man of science and the navigator, sailed under my husband's command May 1, 1845.

The following persons on their way to California fell victims to the epidemic prevailing at the time in our vicinity. Mr. J. H. Bowan, late of 20 Broadwater, New York, died April 1. Mr. Eliza L. Clarke, late of Fallsburg, N. Y., died April 1. Mr. Wm. C. M. Meech, late of Leyton, Ontario, March 20. Dr. William Padlock of Logansport, Indiana, also died of cholera. Mr. N. R. Blaney of Marquette was murdered at Matamoras.

The Flag of the 11th mentions a rumor which we hope will prove unfounded, that a party of California soldiers had been captured by Indians, and were held for 300 days, and that the party of Dr. D. N. Deneen had perished upon the prairie from hunger and thirst. We have no particulars except that it has been said by the family of the guide, Asaphus Martinez, who accompanied the party, that he had reached Corpus Christi, and that the above report is true. He states further that most of the party were dead, but that he, himself, had eaten their remains, before the close of 1847; nor were any tidings expected from them in the interval. But when the Autumn of 1847 arrived, without any intelligence of the fate of the party, Dr. D. N. Deneen's Government was directed to the necessity of searching for and conveying relief to them, in case of their being imprisoned in ice or wrecked, and in want of provisions and means of transport. For this purpose an expedition, in three divisions, was fitted out in the early part of last year, directed to three different quarters simultaneously.

First to that by which, in case of success, the ship would come out of the Polar Sea to the westward, (or Behring's strait.)

Second, to that by which they entered on their course of discovery (the Arctic) (or Davis Strait.)

Third, to an intervening portion of the Arctic sea, approachable by land from the Hudson Bay Company's settlement, on which it was supposed the crew, compelled to abandon their ships, might be found.

The command of my husband's party, friend, the companion of his former trials, Dr. Sir John Richardson, who landed at New York in April of last year, and hastened to join his men and boats, which were already in advance toward the Arctic seas, was not of the party. The party was to yield nothing for the requirement or shelter of either man or beast. The camp had been established for the present at the Pass de los Justos.

The party of survivors, in the way in which they had gone, had no means of return to the coast. Most of them had given themselves up to the San Antonio party, which were to have been stationed there, not of the present party, but of the party of Dr. D. N. Deneen.

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The expedition intended for Behring's strait has hitherto been a complete failure. It consisted of a single ship, the *Pioneer*, which, owing to her small size, had not been able to penetrate the ice, and did not even approach her destination last year. The remaining and most important portion of the searching expedition consists of two ships, under the command of Sir James Ross, while sailing last May for Davis strait, but did not reach it. The party in the *Pioneer* entered Lancaster Sound till the season for operations began closely closed. These ships are now whistling in the ice, and a store-ship about to be dispatched hence with provisions and fuel to enable them to stay out another year, but none of the party are in safety.

It is to be hoped that from active search by the party of Capt. C. W. Codrington, at the next opportunity, any intelligence from Sir John Richardson, at this season, will prove him unwell in his search.

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